

Anti-fog Compound



In the accompanying photo, the model is displaying TRX Anti-Fog Composition, an inexpensive preparation that prevents condensation of moisture on plastic and glass without harming the surfaces of such materials. Manufactured by Tracer Chemical Company, Tampa, Florida, it has a variety of applications—for example, fog prevention for eyeglasses, ski goggles, skin-diving masks, car windows, bathroom mirrors, camera lenses and helmet face shields worn by firefighters or motorcyclists.

The compound was originally developed by Johnson Space Center (JSC) to bar fog formation on astronaut helmet visors and spacecraft windows. The basic composition includes a liquid detergent, deionized water and an oxygen-compatible fire resistant oil.

Started in 1980 as a specialty company providing chemical products for the law enforcement community, Tracer Chemical sought to broaden its product line. Company president Harry L. Humphrey learned of the JSC compound through *Tech Briefs*, a NASA publication intended to advise potential users of NASA technologies available for transfer. Humphrey subsequently obtained a NASA license for manufacture and marketing of the compound and started production in 1981.

Tracer Chemical markets the product under its own label and with the "house brand" labels of other customers. The company has developed a strong customer base in the United States and has found additional markets in the United Kingdom, Japan, Norway and Taiwan. The company reports that its sales of TRX Anti-Fog Composition have provided expansion capital and encouraged the company to look for new opportunities for licensed manufacture of other NASA-developed technologies.